

INFORMATION, NEWS AND SUPPORT SPEAK OUT! PITTSFORD DISTRICT TEACHERS ASSOCIATION



Welcome Back! Stephanie Warchol, President

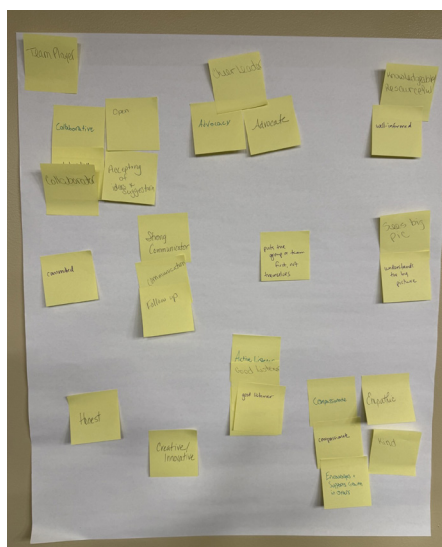
Welcome to the first edition of Speak Out for the 26-27 school year. Whether it is your first year as a PDTA member, your last, or somewhere in between, we encourage you to engage with the work your union is doing, and an easy way to do that is to read each edition of Speak Out. This newsletter always contains helpful information, important dates, and reminders, to ensure you are getting the value of your dues dollars. As we head into a negotiations year, your solidarity will be more important than ever. We rely on you to stay involved and empowered through your PDTA membership!



On opening day, I spoke to all in attendance about leadership and encouraged everyone, regardless of the daily role they fulfill here at PCSD to be courageous as we embarked on a new year. As I shared that morning, I have come to realize that leadership is not a title we bestow on ourselves. It is something we demonstrate through action. Every one of us is a leader, whether we drive a school bus, serve meals in a cafeteria, support students and staff from an office, or teach or support students in a classroom. It is very common, especially when rolling out new initiatives, to say "the district" is doing this or that, but WE are the collective district. We are

all the leaders of Pittsford Schools. Together, in the coming years, we will pursue excellence while implementing our new strategic initiative, which will guide our fifty-five hundred students into their future.

At our first Executive Committee meeting earlier this month, we took time individually and together, to reflect on important attributes and characteristics of a good leader. After working in teams, we separated these labels into themes and then looked at what the other groups had brainstormed. Some of the common responses were good listener, advocate, trustworthy, collaborator, and knowledgeable. We also felt it was important to have leaders who are compassionate, servants, confidential, honest, and role models. As the final step in our activity, we used these attributes to discuss how we conducted business last year as a leadership team, and how we wanted to move forward this year. It was a great way to unify new and returning members of Exec, as we begin our work, and allow members of the group to have voice.



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As we flip the calendar to October, your Negotiations Team will pick up where we left off in June. Reviewing the submitted interests, continuing to narrow down what we can bring to the table, and what we want to pursue as counter offers to what might come our way. If we need follow up information or more detail, we will reach out to the members and leaders within PDTA who submitted interests. We will also start to work with our NYSUT Labor Relations Specialist to review other comparable local contracts. We currently have nine sessions scheduled with the District through March. We ask that you respect the Negotiations Team and their need to be radio silent, to protect what is being discussed at the bargaining table. As soon as we have information to share with the membership, we promise we will do so in the manner that follows the language within our Constitution. It is the collective power of nearly 850 members that gives the seven of us the strength and confidence to do this work!

We Educate.
We Advocate.
We Collaborate.





Executive Vice President Kim Chesko

President.

One of my roles is to be the liaison between our union and PTSA. This is an important relationship, as WE are the T in PTSA. Last year, PDTA President Stephanie Warchol and I worked to maintain a professional and supportive relationship between our two organizations. We plan to continue to collaborate and communicate with PTSA for the benefit of our teachers, students, and families.

PTSA Membership

Did you know that your Pittsford Central PTSA membership needs to be renewed every year? If you are new or have never been a member of the PTSA before, please consider supporting the work they do for us and our students. Your membership dues benefit all nine buildings through cultural arts and field trips, student directories, gifts and grants, student agendas, and the PTSA e-news and website. To be more specific, at the high schools it covers student awards, the student opportunity fund, homecoming, college night, and the senior bash/year end celebration. At the middle schools it supports library and reading programs, fun nights, and the year-end celebration. The elementary buildings benefit through the art ambassador, science action, library

and reading programs, Red Ribbon Week, visiting authors, the back-to-school picnic, and fifth grade transition. All staff may join annually at the \$10 teacher/staff level, even if you have children who attend schools in the district or another. Five dollars of this membership stays right here in Pittsford to benefit our students directly, while \$1.75 goes to the NYS PTA and \$3.25 goes to National PTSA. PTSA representatives will be on hand at this year's Benefits Fair, if you prefer to pay with the paper form and cash/check, or [click here](#) to join now using a credit/debit card.

NEW!! PTSA Perks

New this year, our PTSA Leadership has begun a PTSA Perks program to make your membership work for you! All PTSA members are able to show their membership card to receive exclusive discounts at local restaurants and retailers. A full list of participating merchants can be found [here](#), along with instructions on how to access your membership card after you join PTSA.

Stay up-to-date

The next evening District PTSA meeting will be held on November 16, 2026, from 7:00PM- 9:00PM at the Sutherland High School LGI. Check out [their website](#) to stay up to date on all things PTSA.

Follow us on social media!



@pdtaunion



@ Pittsford
District Teachers
Association
- PDTA



@PDTAunion



Resolution Specialist Jennifer Villareale

Welcome to the new school year! My name is Jen Villareale, and this is my 24th year teaching here at PCSD. It's an honor to continue serving the PDTA membership in my role as Resolution Specialist. Part of my role includes helping members navigate questions and concerns related to medical leaves. I'm always happy to be a resource and help members find the information and support they need.

Leaves can come at unexpected times and may be accompanied by stress, uncertainty, or difficult emotions. Whether you are preparing for the arrival of a new baby, dealing with a medical situation, or facing a time you need

to access the Sick Leave Bank, we want you to know that you don't have to navigate the process alone. Your union is here for you!

The [PDTA website](#) is a great place to start. There you'll find detailed information regarding **medical leave, pregnancy leave, and the Sick Leave Bank**, along with answers to many common questions and the forms you may need to complete. I encourage you to take a few minutes to familiarize yourself with these resources, you never know when you or a fellow member may need them. And, of course, I'm always here to help you find your way through the process.



SRP Newslink Connie Maust

Welcome back!

I hope you are settling into your new school year routine. Here are reminders and dates to add to your calendar for the start of the year:

-If there are still questions about your hours of work, please reach out to your administrator as soon as possible.

-Remember to check your September 30 pay statement for any adjustments due to a late change that was not reflected in your September 15 pay.

-If you are reassigned to fill-in for an absence, you are not trained for and do not feel comfortable with, please continue to use the wording attached [HERE](#) to send to your administrator. Remember to complete the [Para Reassigned to Para Compensation Form](#). You can [click here](#) to see how to complete it. Please submit them promptly and keep a copy for yourself.

-The yearly mandated Sexual Harassment Training needs to be completed by September 30. All other mandatory training is due December 31. Trainings can be accessed through ClassLink using the CypherWorx icon or under the "For Staff" tab on the district website. After clicking "launch" to open the 2026-2027 Yearly Compliance Courses - All Employees, and selecting a course, don't forget you to click "Add to My

Courses" and confirm it to receive credit for the training this year.

-The Benefits Fair/Flu Shot Clinic will be at CRMS again on October 22, from 2:30-5:00 pm (Solidarity Wear Day- wear your PDTA gear or something blue)

-The NYSERS (SRPs) Pre-Retirement Workshop will take place on Wednesday, October 7 @ 3:30-5:00 pm (SHS LGL). If you are a few years out from retirement, it is recommended that you schedule a 1:1 meeting with your respective Retirement System, which you can do by [clicking here](#).

-Please consider joining PTSA. For faculty/staff, membership is \$10. The membership dues help all nine buildings through cultural arts and field trips, student directories, gifts and grants, student agendas, and the PTSA e-news and website.

-Also, please remember that the [PDTA website](#) is a great resource. You can find other helpful information such as the contract, FMLA reference document, and substitute system directions for our new hires.

If you need to reach me or have any questions, please feel free to email or call me on ext. 1026.

Have a great year!



Pittsford
Schools



SAVE THE DATE:

PCSD & PDTA ANNUAL BENEFITS FAIR & FLU SHOT CLINIC

• APPOINTMENT REQUIRED FOR FLU SHOTS

OCTOBER 22, 2026
CALKINS ROAD MIDDLE SCHOOL
2:30 - 5:00 PM

ALL PCSD EMPLOYEES WELCOME !

PURCHASE RAFFLE TICKETS TO WIN
FABULOUS PRIZES,
ENJOY FREE REFRESHMENTS,
AND VISIT EACH VENDOR TO GET USEFUL
INFORMATION, FREEBIES, AND QUALIFY FOR
DOOR PRIZES!

ALL RAFFLE PROCEEDS BENEFIT
PDTA STUDENT SCHOLARSHIPS & LOCAL COMMUNITY PARTNERS

Save the Date!

SHORT SLEEVE- \$18
V-NECK SHORT SLEEVE- \$18
1/4 ZIP PULL OVER - \$25
FULL ZIP HOODIE - \$30



BOTH T SHIRT
STYLES WILL
HAVE THIS PRINTED
ON THE BACK:
**WE EDUCATE.
WE ADVOCATE.
WE COLLABORATE.**

CHECK PAYABLE TO PDTA
OR CASH
DUE NOVEMBER 6, 2026

NEW ITEM!!!
**WHITE HOODED LONG
SLEEVE T \$22**



The fall apparel sale starts October 15!

EMBROIDERED PDTA SWAG



15% of all sales go directly to our PDTA Student Scholarship Fund. We've raised over \$345 since the program began!

All products are embroidered.

Purchases are done online through the company and shipped directly to your house. Keep an eye out for sale codes and free shipping deals which are frequently offered.

Link will always be open - make purchases whenever and as often as you like.

Makes a perfect gift for yourself or your favorite PDTA member- feel free to share the link with friends or family.



pdta.logosoftwear.com

Important Information and Dates:

- Sexual harassment training due: September 30
- NYSTRS Pre-Retirement Workshop: September 30, 3:30-5:30, SHS
- NYSERS Pre-Retirement Workshop: October 7, 3:30-5:30, SHS
- Benefits Fair and Flu Shot Clinic: October 22, 2:30-5:00, CRMS
- All other mandatory trainings due: December 31st



Speak Out! is been edited and compiled by Murie Gillett. Feel free to contact me with any questions at murie_gillett@pittsford.monroe.edu.

SPEAK OUT! Ads

You and your family members are invited to place ads in future issues of SPEAK OUT!

Rates for members and family (price is for one issue):

1/8 Page: \$12.50 ¼ Page: \$25.00 ½ Page: \$50.00 Full Page: \$100.00

Above rates are for copy ready advertising. If additional design or set-up is required, an additional fee of \$25 will be assessed. Space for ads is limited per issue. Checks should be made out to PDTA and mailed to the PDTA Office. Ad proceeds will support PDTA charitable efforts.

Send copy and questions directly to murie_gillett@pittsford.monroe.edu.

Your PDTA Representative Assembly 2026-2027:

President: Stephanie Warchol * (CRMS)

Executive Vice President: Kim Chesko * (JRE)

Vice President for Negotiations: Dennise Zobel * (BRE)

Secretary: Alyson Jacobs * (ACE)

Treasurer: Ryan Domina * (SHS)

Resolution Specialist (non-voting): Jennifer Villareale * (MCE)

Allen Creek Elementary

Michele Riedl, Building Representative *

Emily Odhiambo, Assistant Building Representative

Susan Benson, Assistant SRP Representative

Jefferson Road Elementary

Katie Phillips, Building Representative *

Patty Steeley, Assistant Building Rep.

Heather White, Assistant SRP Representative

Mendon Center Elementary

Nina Dezio, Building Representative *

Erin Ciccone, Assistant Building Representative

Erin Cregan, Assistant Building Representative

Deborah Ricketts, Assistant SRP Representative

Rebecca Tan, Assistant SRP Representative

Park Road Elementary

Jackie Bowser, Building Representative *

Jacqueline Madden, Assistant Building Representative

Thornell Road Elementary

Building Representative: Vacant *

Assistant Building Representative: Vacant

Anne Holahan, Assistant SRP Representative

Barker Road Middle School

Kristen Dolan, Building Representative *

Jennifer Robinson, Assistant Building Representative

Ellen Fox, Assistant Building Representative

Karen Grace, Assistant Building Representative

Connie Maust, SRP Representative *

Calkins Road Middle School

Jessica Wojcik, Building Representative *

Jaclyn Anderson, Assistant Building Representative

Jessica Bonadio, Assistant Building Representative

Farida Patrawala, Assistant SRP Representative

Mendon High School

Samantha Hyde, Building Representative *

Brandon Mauks, Assistant Building Representative

Erin Moses, Assistant Building Representative

Jake Thompson, Assistant Building Representative

LaShanda Clark McCadney, Assistant SRP Representative

Sutherland High School

Amanda Marshall, Building Representative *

Marc Hellems, Assistant Building Representative

Brian Shafer, Assistant Building Representative

Jeff Wing, Assistant Building Representative

Kelly Nanavati, Assistant SRP Representative

Non-voting:

Irene Hopp, Retiree Representative & Whitney Sienkiewicz, Ancillary Representative

Standing Committee Chairs:

Communications: Murie Gillett, SHS

Extracurricular: Katie Shea, SHS

Membership: Paul LeVan, SHS

Political Action: Karen Grace, BRMS

Professional Advancement: Dennise Zobel, BRE

Professional Growth: Nicole Barry, BRE

Public Relations: Kelly Jordan, PRE

Safety and Wellness: Zachary Herbert, BRMS

Special Events: Erica Bonin, MHS

Delegates:

1. Stephanie Warchol

2. Kimberly Chesko

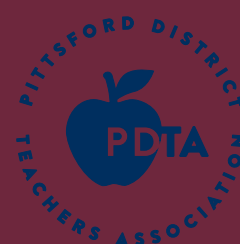
3. Katie Shea

4. Karen Grace

5. Alyson Jacobs

6. Jennifer Simons

7. Jennifer Birdsong-ng



*Indicates Executive Committee Member

How to maximize your NYSUT membership

Your NYSUT membership offers special advantages unavailable to the general public. Make sure you're utilizing all the savings opportunities below provided by NYSUT Member Benefits.

Member-Only Pricing: Protect your loved ones with various life insurances. Plan for the future with quality long-term care insurance plans. Select from multiple highly rated auto and home insurance carriers. Receive reimbursement for eligible pet care through Nationwide.

Unbiased Advice: Ensure your financial and legal affairs are in order. Receive expert guidance on personal legal matters with unlimited advice from attorneys through our legal service plan. Obtain unbiased, objective phone consultations with a certified financial planner or registered investment advisor with our financial counseling program.

Travel Savings: Bundle and save on flights, cruises, vehicle rentals, and over 850,000 hotels and resorts for the optimal travel experience with MB Discounts & Deals. Enjoy reduced pricing on over 80 explorations across 100 countries with Grand Circle Travel & Overseas Adventure Travel, including new "Immersions" options for more active travelers.

Free Benefits: Check out our free benefits! All in-service and retiree members receive unlimited access to the popular Calm app and can add up to five dependents (age 16 or older). Whether you have a specific matter or simply need an empathetic voice, the Peer Support Line can help. Other benefits include: \$5,000 accidental death & dismemberment insurance, travel assistance services, financial learning center, and more.



Feel confident knowing you have a trusted advocate on your side if you ever need us.

Find out all that's available from Member Benefits. Scan the QR code, visit memberbenefits.nysut.org, or call 800-626-8101.



**MEMBER
BENEFITS**
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Working to Benefit You

September/October 2026